

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

NATIONAL EREBUS MEMORIAL – DESIGN UPDATE AND 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Date:	11 June 2019	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	Reference:	BR2019/287

Minister	Action Sought	Deadline
Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern Arts, Culture and Heritage	<p>Agree to the proposed narrative text for the Memorial</p> <p>Agree to the proposed dedication text for the memorial.</p> <p>Note the plans underway for the 40th anniversary and website.</p>	14 June 2019

Contacts			
Name	Position	Contact	1 st Contact
Becky MacNeill	Deputy Chief Executive, Organisational Performance and Delivery	9 (2) (a)	
Brodie Stubbs	Manager Memorials and Taonga	9 (2) (a)	✓

Minister's office to complete	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Declined
	<input type="checkbox"/> Noted	<input type="checkbox"/> Needs change
	<input type="checkbox"/> Seen	<input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by events
	<input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's notes	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
Comments:		

Purpose

- 1 To provide an update on the developed design of the National Erebus Memorial. Your approval is sought on the narrative and dedication content which will appear on the memorial.
- 2 This paper also outlines the initial plans for the 40th anniversary of Erebus in November 2019.

Memorial design update

Developed Design and Engagement of Key Contractors and Consultants

- 3 After the 5 April announcement of the selected design Te Paerangi Ataata - Sky Song, Studio Pacific Architecture (the design team) commenced working on the developed design. This involves the design team gathering advice from a number of specialists to further develop the design.
- 4 To date the following suppliers have been engaged to provide advice on the memorial and site:
 - Quantity Surveyor
 - Stainless Steel supplier
 - Concrete Specialist
 - Metal engraver
 - Land Surveyor
 - Geotechnical Engineer
 - Archaeologist
- 5 When the design has been updated, landowner approval will be sought from Waitemata Local Board. The resource consent application will be submitted in late July.
- 6 In July the main contractor will be engaged. Fabrication of the Memorial will commence in October and work on site will likely commence in December.

Snowflake Taonga

- 7 Part of the memorial design is a 'keepsake' element for Erebus families to retain. The stainless steel snow drift wall will have 257 snowflake shapes cut out, each representing an Erebus passenger. Each of these cut out shapes will have a matching snowflake which will be provided to each family, (this could potentially occur at the 40th anniversary – we are working with the design team to see if this will be possible).
- 8 An example of a snowflake can be seen in Appendix 1. Each snowflake is developed by applying an algorithm to each person's name to create a unique snowflake shape.

Memorial Narrative

- 9 A feature of the memorial will be a short narrative in both English and Te Reo, which outlines the Erebus story and the purpose of the memorial.
- 10 The below narrative has been drafted by MCH to state in simple terms:
- The facts of the accident
 - That there were international passengers on board
 - The grief experienced by family and friends
 - The very difficult task of recovery and identification; and
 - The impact of the event on New Zealand.

On 28 November 1979 all 257 people on a sightseeing flight to Antarctica died when their plane crashed into the lower slopes of Mount Erebus.

This loss was felt by all New Zealand, and in many countries around the world. The lives of those who lost family and friends were changed forever.

The isolation and rugged terrain of Antarctica made the recovery of the bodies challenging. Against the odds, a small team brought most of the victims back, and hundreds more worked to return them to their families.

This memorial records the nation's grief at the lives lost, our sympathy for those directly affected by the accident, and our gratitude to the recovery and identification teams.

Memorial Dedication

- 11 The memorial will also have a dedication text located near the entrance to the memorial:

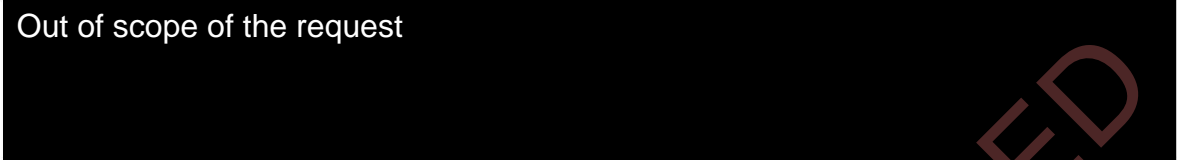
National Erebus Memorial

Dedicated by the Right Honourable Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand
on xx May 2020

40th anniversary event

12 The 40th anniversary of the Erebus accident will be commemorated on 28 November at 1:49 pm, the time (in New Zealand Daylight Saving time) that flight TE901 crashed. The ceremony will be held on site at Dove-Myer Robinson Park / Taurarua Pā and will also incorporate ground-breaking and may include laying of mauri stones. Ngati Whatua will be invited to lead this part of the ceremony.

13 Out of scope of the request



14 We have prepared a draft programme for the commemoration (see Appendix 2) but this will evolve as planning progresses.

15 A church service (led by Reverend Richard Waugh) for the families of Erebus will be held on 24 November, at the Holy Trinity Anglican Cathedral at Parnell. The Cathedral was unavailable on 28 November.

16 We are providing some assistance to Reverend Waugh to ensure coherence between the 24 and 28 November events. We have connected Reverend Waugh with Government House so that he can invite the Governor-General to attend.

17 We will continue to update you via the fortnightly report as planning proceeds and will provide you with a speech and any other information you will require for the event.

National Erebus Memorial website

18 As discussed at the 27 May ACH Minister/MCH meeting we will be creating a National Erebus Memorial website which will contain information which will complement the Memorial. We will work with families to develop its content but this will take some time and it will not be fully complete by the unveiling date.

Recommendations

19 The Ministry for Culture and Heritage recommends that you:

- 1 **Agree** to the proposed narrative text for the Memorial at paragraph 11. YES / NO
- 2 **Agree** to the proposed dedication text for the memorial at paragraph 12. YES / NO
- 3 **Note** the proposed plans for 40th anniversary and the website

9(2)(a)



Becky MacNeill
Deputy Chief Executive,
Organisational Performance and
Delivery

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

_____ / _____ / 2019

Next steps

- 20 On your approval of the narrative and dedication we will proceed with a Te Reo translation.
- 21 We will continue to keep you informed on progress with all aspects of the memorial and planning for the 40th anniversary.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Snowflake taonga
Appendix 2: 40th anniversary – draft programme

Appendix 1: Snowflake taonga

An example of a snowflake shape produced via an algorithm from the name Jacinda Ardern. The outer outline of the passenger's snowflake would be cut into the snowdrift wall and each family would be presented with a cut-out as a gift.

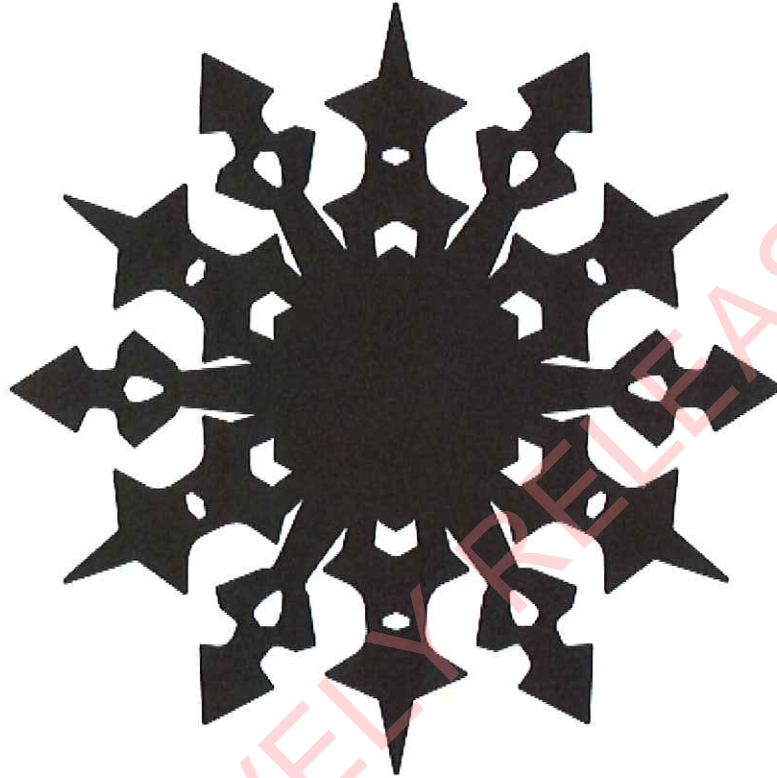


Figure 1

Appendix 2: 40th Anniversary draft programme

Draft programme for 28 November at the site of the memorial.

Time	Action
1.40	Arrival of VIPs
1.45	Arrival of Prime Minister
1.47	MC welcomes all and asks for a minutes silence to acknowledge the time of the accident
1.49	Minute's silence
1.50	MC invites Ngati Whatua to lead the ground breaking and potentially mauri stones ceremony
	Ground breaking and mauri stones ceremony
2:10	MC invites all to move to the marquee for speeches and afternoon tea
	PM speaks
	Family member representative responds
2:20	Ceremony ends – afternoon tea is served